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C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 000385

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/FO AMBASSADOR MORIARTY, NP DAS SEMMEL,  
EAP/RSP AND EAP/ANZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/13/2015

TAGS: [KNNP](#) [PARM](#) [ETTC](#) [KSTC](#) [EAID](#) [ETRD](#) [ECIN](#) [NZ](#) [APECO](#)

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND SUPPORTS U.S. APEC RADIOACTIVE SOURCES  
INITIATIVE

REF: SECSTATE 79844

Classified By: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION DAVID BURNETT,  
FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

[11](#). (U) This message contains an action suggestion, at para  
[15](#).

[12](#). (U) Post shared reftel demarche with the Disarmament  
Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).  
The Division takes the lead at MFAT on all bilateral and  
multilateral disarmament-related issues.

[13](#). (U) On May 11, Matthew Aileone, a Policy Officer in the  
division, told Pol-Econ Couns that New Zealand would support  
the U.S. APEC Radioactive Sources Initiative. Aileone also  
confirmed that new radiation protection legislation is now  
under Cabinet review. The proposed legislation would enable  
New Zealand to adhere to:

- the IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of  
Radioactive Sources,
- International Basic Safety Standards for Protection  
against Ionizing Radiation and for the safety of Radiation  
Sources,
- the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear  
Material, and
- the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel  
Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

Unfortunately, Aileone could not confirm at this time that  
the proposed legislation would enable New Zealand to follow  
the IAEA import/export guidance. He promised to let Pol-Econ  
Couns know the week of May 15 whether or not New Zealand  
would commit to the guidance.

[14](#). (SBU) According to Aileone, the Government aims for the  
legislation to be passed before the end of this year. The  
date may slip a bit, however, as this is a general election  
year (elections will probably be called sometime between late  
July and mid-September) and legislators will be focused on  
campaigning.

[15](#). (C/NOFORN) Comment: New Zealand's status as a  
nuclear-free country dwells deep within the national psyche.  
At the UN Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference  
now underway in New York, New Zealand has strongly resisted  
our efforts to highlight nonproliferation as the key focus of  
the review. Rather, the Kiwis insist that the treaty  
concentrate equally on disarmament commitments by the U.S.  
and other nuclear states. Bilaterally, New Zealand's 1985  
anti-nuclear legislation still impedes much military and  
intelligence cooperation with the United States and  
contributes to its foreign policy drift away from us. In  
short, it is often difficult for U.S. officials to deal with  
New Zealand's strong opposition to all things nuclear.

[16](#). (C/NOFORN) But there is a bright spot: we have in the  
past successfully encouraged the Kiwis to engage other  
countries proactively on nuclear issues in a way that is rare  
for this unofficially non-aligned country. For example, when  
New Zealand was on the IAEA Board, the Embassy successfully  
persuaded NZ officials to demarche Iran on the need to comply  
with IAEA requirements. If Washington agencies/other posts  
advise us which APEC countries might benefit from a similar  
Kiwi approach, Post would be happy to make the request to our  
New Zealand counterparts.  
Swindells